

For Release:

Immediate



SYSTEMS PROGRAMMING

International Business Machines Corporation
Data Processing Division
112 East Post Road
White Plains, New York 10601
Bert Reisman, Manager of Information

E. F. Rodgers
- 914 White Plains 9-1900

PROSPRO/1800 "FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS" PROGRAM AVAILABLE

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., October 16. . . PROSPRO/1800 -- the "fill-in-the-blanks" programming system designed for the IBM 1800 data acquisition and control system -- is now available from IBM. The program can substantially reduce the programming effort associated with the installation of an 1800 system.

PROSPRO/1800 is a real-time, on-line system for implementing the control of continuous processes ranging from steel production to oil refining.

By utilizing the "fill-in-the-blanks" technique, the user can describe the process and develop a control scheme. The process engineer, through the use of forms, can specify the frequency at which a process variable is to be read, its alarm limits, the alarm actions and control strategies. The mathematical models the customer develops may be programmed within the PROSPRO language, or as special programs written in Assembler Language or FORTRAN.

The system receives its process data and control instructions from cards punched according to the entries on the forms. The various tables, data records and control schemes are automatically generated by PROSPRO/1800. No prior knowledge of computer programming is required to fill in the forms, and frequent modifications in the process or the control strategy are easily accommodated by the system.

The PROSPRO/1800 system normally uses analog signals as measured variables, and set-point positioners for control output. It operates under the IBM 1800 Time-Sharing Executive System (TSX), and requires an 1801 or 1802 processor-controller with a minimum of 16K words of memory.

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PROGRAM PRODUCT

International Business Machines Corporation
Data Processing Division
112 East Post Road
White Plains, New York 10601
Erwin Okun, Manager of Information

Ed Nanas
(914) 949-1900

IMPROVED PROCESS CONTROL PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY IBM

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Nov. 10 . . . An improved "fill-in-the-blanks" computer program, announced today by IBM, makes it easy for process engineers to prepare direct digital control (DDC) instructions. The program also provides expanded supervisory control capabilities.

The program product -- called PROSPRO II -- can be used with the IBM 1800 data acquisition and control system to help direct continuous industrial processes such as paper manufacturing and oil refining.

PROSPRO II includes a DDC capability that provides second-by-second, on-line control of the instruments regulating an industrial process. The DDC capability, which bypasses individual instrument controllers, could control 150 different instruments in a typical system.

PROSPRO II improves the supervisory control function. For example, it can update the computer files as often as once a minute. The program also directs the computer to monitor process variables that may call for initiating such actions as closing valves, altering another variable, or flashing an alarm signal to the operator.

Both the second-by-second and minute-by-minute control levels can be implemented with the "fill-in-the-blanks" technique of the original PROSPRO/1800 program, which was introduced two years ago.

The technique allows an engineer to describe the industrial process and develop a control scheme. Little or no knowledge of computer programming is required. He fills in special forms specifying the frequency at which a process variable is to be read by the computer, its alarm limits, the alarm actions and control strategies. This information is then entered into the 1800 system using punched cards.

PROSPRO II will be available next February under a license agreement at a charge of \$285 a month.

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